



## District of Columbia National Guard **Talking Points**



### **National Guard Involvement - Inauguration 2009**

January 18, 2009

#### **Joint Task Force Q and A for 2009 Presidential Inauguration**

##### **Q. What is AFIC and what is its mission?**

A. The Armed Forces Inaugural Committee is established every four years at the direction of the Secretary of Defense. AFIC is a joint service organization that coordinates military ceremonial participation and support of inaugural events. AFIC falls under the command of Joint Force Headquarters National Capital Region which, in turn, falls under USNORTHCOM as the combatant command. Maj. Gen. Richard Rowe is the commanding general of JFHQ-NCR and chairman of AFIC.

##### **Q. Why is the military involved in the Presidential Inauguration?**

A. Military involvement in the Presidential Inauguration is a centuries-old tradition in which we honor our commander in chief, recognize civilian control of the military and celebrate democracy.

##### **Q. How many troops will participate?**

A. This is a Presidential Inaugural Committee decision, but historically, up to 5,000 total force military personnel have provided ceremonial support during the inaugural period, which is defined as the five days before and four days after the presidential inauguration. Of these, approximately 700 servicemembers will be reporting to Armed Forces Inaugural Committee over a period of months leading up to the inauguration in order to provide ceremonial planning and logistics support.

##### **Q. How many National Guard members are supporting the inauguration?**

A. Approximately 10,000 National Guard members will be participating, making this the largest ever contingent of Guardsmen and women to serve in the district for this historic event. The Guard members are coming from 26 states and territories including Alabama, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York, Nevada, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, D.C. and West Virginia.

**Q. Last time, there were news stories about military forces playing a security role. Will that be the same this year?**

A. The military is supporting the 2009 Presidential Inauguration with a variety of unique capabilities. The Guard members are working for Joint Task Force-District of Columbia, providing communications, transportation, traffic control, medical and logistical support – as well as marching in the Inaugural parade. We do not discuss the specific alert status of our units. Please contact the United States Secret Service for information regarding security at the event.

**Q. Will the Guard members be armed?**

A. Arming our National Guard Soldiers and Airmen is beyond the scope of this Joint Task Forces mission. Our primary objective is to provide support to local authorities performing details such as crowd management, traffic control, emergency services, and parking coordination. The security of the citizens visiting Washington, D.C., for the inauguration is the ultimate responsibility of the metropolitan D.C. Police Department, U.S. Park Police and U.S. Secret Service. The public's safety has been given the highest consideration.

**Q. Why is the military working with the secret service?**

A. As part of the federal team in the National Capital Region, Joint Force Headquarters – National Capital Region is often involved in the planning of potential consequence management operations for possible contingencies during events such as the annual State of the Union Address, the 2008 Papal Visit and the 9/11 memorial dedication. The preparation for a national special security event is a cooperative effort among federal, state and local agencies.

**Q. How is the military prepared for an incident should one occur?**

A. In the unlikely event of a large scale incident during the 2009 inaugural period, we will have response teams standing by ready to assist with consequence management operations if military assistance is required.

**Q. What will the Guard members be doing in support of the inauguration?**

A. They will provide security, traffic control, communications, transportation, medical, logistical, parade and musical support.

**Q. Will there be any National Guard members directly involved in the ceremonial events and celebration events?**

A. Several hundred National Guard members preparing to provide ceremonial support

to the 56<sup>th</sup> Presidential Inaugural. This support is traditionally comprised of musical units, marching bands, color guards, salute batteries and honor cordons

**Q. Is the National Guard helping with the traffic outside of Washington, D.C?**

A. Approximately 2,000 Virginia and Maryland Guard forces are supporting their states law enforcement and transportation agents for traffic flow support.

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**Q. How many Guard members from each state are on the ground in DC and what will each state be providing?**

- The Maryland National Guard has 1,200 Soldiers and Airmen assisting with the movement of people in and around the monuments on the mall
- The District of Columbia National Guard has more than 2,500 National Guard Soldiers and Airmen providing myriad support to the inauguration
- 1,300 Pennsylvania Army and Air National Guard personnel are providing security, traffic and crowd control for the presidential inauguration while simultaneously sending 4,000 members of its Stryker Brigade to Iraq
- 1,000 Iowa National Guard personnel will participate in the presidential inauguration; it's the first time in their 170-year history participating in the event
- The Virginia National Guard is providing more than 500 Guard personnel to provide security for the inauguration
- Air National Guard members from Iowa, Rhode Island, North Carolina and Tennessee are sending personnel and their deployable kitchen assets
- The Illinois Air National Guard, the home state of the President-elect, is sending Citizen-Airmen with communications systems to support the inauguration
- Wisconsin Air National Guard personnel are supporting the Armed Forces Inauguration Committee, parade and ceremony events

- Eighteen members of the Vermont National Guard are providing public safety, logistics and public affairs support for the inaugural events
- The West Virginia National Guard will provide nearly 500 Soldiers and Airmen in the Washington metro area to assist with crowd control
- The New York National Guard is providing over 200 Army and Air Guard members to assist Task Force DC with traffic control
- Nearly 250 Tennessee National Guard Soldiers and Airmen will provide support for the 56th Presidential Inaugural ceremony

## **YOUR NATIONAL GUARD**

- The National Guard is inherently responsible for securing the safety of Americans through homeland security and by supporting the Global War on Terror, whether at home or abroad
- Our Soldiers and Airmen are on point for our nation. They're ready, reliable, essential and accessible

## **INTEROPERABILITY & COORDINATION**

- The National Guard Bureau is working closely with several state governments, the District of Columbia police and multiple federal agencies to identify requirements and to provide assistance
- The National Guard is home to a wide variety of capabilities that can seamlessly integrate with our inter-agency partners to respond to any crisis or event
- We have strong partnerships with the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Defense and the North American Air Defense / Northern Command to ensure synchronization and unity of effort during all domestic operations
- Nearly 60,000 Army and Air National Guard personnel are currently supporting expeditionary operations in 40 countries around the world, including Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.